NIAGARA NEWS

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8 pages

NIAGARA COLLEGE of Applied Arts and Technology WELLAND CAMPUS LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Dismal economy not a co-op liability

Despite the recession, the placement rate for co-operative students is on a par with last year's rate, said Rosemary Cawthorne, manager of Co-operative Education and Career Services.

At the end of last fall, 50 per cent of our students were placed," she said. "Very frequently, placements are finalized at the beginning of the winter term during the month of January."

Mrs. Cawthorne said students are concerned with finding jobs during this economic slowdown but "we are still very optimistic that students will be placed as usual."

We are stepping up the marketing of our co-op students to maximize employer contacts to help students as much as possible....We are increasing our advertising...in the local papers...."she said.

The unemployment rate is no where near the peak of 1981-82, she said. "We had co-op students in six programs in the college at that time. The difficulties were overcome and the co-op program was successful," she said.

Mrs. Cawthorne said Niagara College graduates will need to be more flexible in regard to salary, location, and job duties. "They will need to take whatever experience they can get and start building a skill-base to accomplish career goals when the economy brightens," she said. "There is always a job out there for someone."

Niagara's projected debt $1.3 million

Financial projections which put the college's deficit at $1.3 million are on track, Gary LaRose, director of financial services, said.

"I'm fairly comfortable with the projections as of now, but things can change. We're hoping (the financial situation) will be better, but it could go either way," he said.

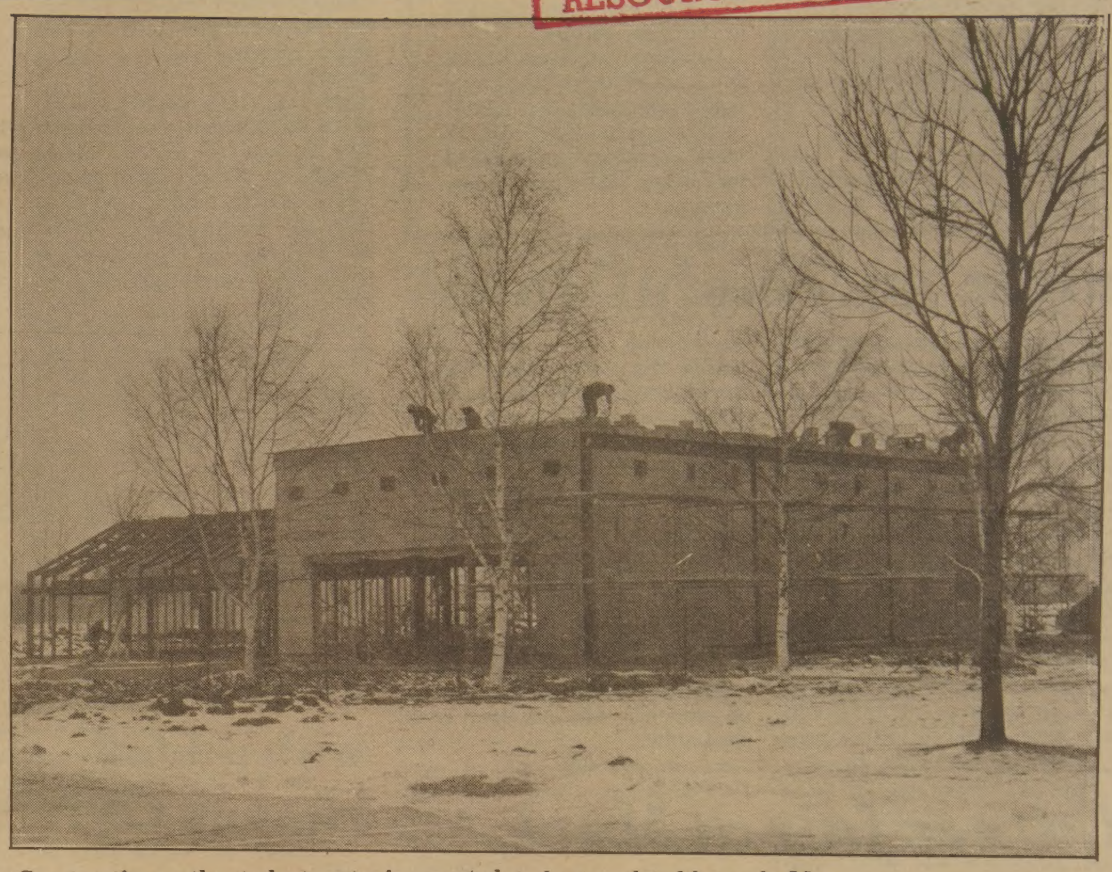
Niagara College has been operating with a continual and steadily increasing debt since last September. College officials predicted in September the deficit would grow to more than $1 million.

"I'll have a good idea of our situation at the end of February or beginning of March. With a lot of programs it is hard to see early on how they will affect the budget,"he said.

Mr. LaRose said tuition and enrolment figures will come in at the end of January, allowing those figures to be entered in the budget.

The college has been hampered by unforeseen expenses such as electrical equipment costs incurred after the blackout last September, and lab equipment costs needed to meet the demand of higher enrolment this year. Cost-cutting measures have not been as successful as hoped for, Mr. LaRose said, and in fact money has been spent upgrading some areas of the plant and property department.

"Although I would never characterize any debt as good, I am happy that at least this debt is appearing during a growth period at the college," he said.



Construction on the student centre is expected to be completed by early May.

Photo by David Rempel

Student centre on schedule

Despite bad weather, construction of Niagara College's long-awaited student centre remains on schedule.

There were, however, a few delays.

Merit Construction of St. Catharines has been working on the centre for more than two months, and with winter here the workmen are finding the weather less than hospitable.

Working in freezing temperatures makes for slow going, site superintendent Frank Pearson said.

"Production has been pretty slow overall," he said. "We had a truck stuck in the mud when we first started, and the ground was so bad once, we had to pour concrete out of a tow truck."

As yet unnamed, the student centre will contain a pub area with a bar, a lounge, a games room and the Student Administrative Council's offices. The centre's $800,000 budget will be covered almost entirely by student funds, as well as money from a SAC trust fund established about 10 years ago. A $25 student fee with each registration was added last year to be put toward covering the cost of the centre.

Working with a crew which varies between two and 15 workers, Merit Construction is optimistic to complete the 7,900-square-foot centre by May 15.

"I'm very pleased with the progress the centre is making," Donna Flutur, SAC office manager, said. "I was at an on-site meeting Wednesday, and everything is going smoothly. It's on schedule which I'm very pleased with."

New $10 student fee for alumni project

For the first time in the college's history, students will pay $10 to establish and operate an alumni association.

Starting this September, a onetime fee will be automatically added to graduating students' tuition fees. The alumni fee was approved by the Board of Governors.

About $15,000 is needed to start the alumni association, said Foster Zanutto, the college's director of marketing and community relations.

The association is to be in operation by spring 1992 to coincide with the college's 25th anniversary.

Students who pay the alumni fee but withdraw from college within the first 10 days of classes will receive a refund.

Mr. Zanutto said past graduates may join the alumni association. He didn't know how much the fee will be.

The fee will be assessed annually.

Student dies in crash

A funeral service for Mark Cummins, a 21-year-old fourth-term marketing student at Niagara College who died Jan. 8, will be held today.

Mark died after a snowmobiling accident Tuesday morning when the snowmobile he was driving in the Glynn A. Green schoolyard went under a steel pipe which separates the north end of the schoolyard from Stella Street in Pelham.

"He was a happy and quiet fellow," Larry Cote, marketing co-ordinator, said. "I'm going to miss his smiling face in class."

Mark was well-known around here, and he was well liked by all his teachers, Mr. Cote said.

Mark Cummins' classmates, as well as a few of his teachers, visited the Dixon Funeral Home in Fonthill yesterday. A funeral service for Mark will be held at 2 p.m. today. He will be buried at Pleasantview Memorial Gardens in Pelham.

Marketing class students sent a floral tribute to his mother, Lois Cummins. The Student Administrative Council and the college administration also sent flowers.

Mark lived with his mother at 6 Riceholme Pl., Welland.

President seeks task force volunteers

A task force on violence is being organized at Niagara College.

John Saso, college president, is seeking volunteers to form the task force.

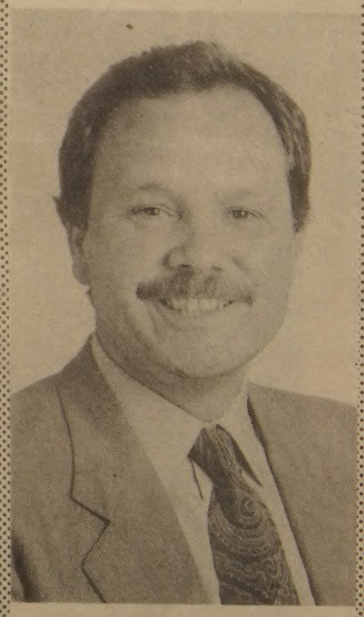
"We want it to be known the college doesn't condone violence and there is a need to increase awareness of what violence is," he said.

Violence against women is the first focus.

Anyone interested in participating in the task force should contact the president's office by Jan. 18.

Inside the News

New Vice-President



Dan Patterson is the new vice-president of community ventures. See page 3.

Air Rescue

Student recounts interesting experience. See page 6.

Sports

Knights win basketball tournament. See page 7.

Pages burn with true passion

By TARA GRABELL
Staff Writer

A cauldron of intense passions, hidden deceptions and all-consuming hatreds is what Kathleen E. Woodiwiss has brewed for new and old fans alike in her new bestselling novel, So Worthy My Love.

After six bestselling novels, Woodiwiss has again served up an exciting tour de force of danger and intrigue set in the 16th century Elizabethan England. A true virtuoso of blending just the right amounts of fiction and fact, Woodiwiss' tale of the sparks-to-flames passion between her characters, Maxim Seymour and Elise Radborne, is a masterpiece far beyond the usual steamy romance novel. Her characters live in the 658 pages of this historical romance.

Woodiwiss takes her readers on a flight through the prim and proper court of England to the barbaric wilds

Book review

of northern Germany. She has the rare ability to capture and weave minute details of costume and setting into the tapestry of these two lovers' lives.

So Worthy My Love is the story of a young spirited woman mistakenly stolen from her home by a handsome traitor and the close confines of a decaying castle, finds herself relentlessly drawn to him physically and emotionally.

Woodiwiss, who creates her fictional works while travelling between the states of Minnesota and Louisiana, uses exotic locales and time periods for her seven novels including Saxony in the 11th century, a Caribbean island in the 18th century and London in the 16th century.

Published by Avon Books Inc., So Worthy My Love, now in paperback, is available in most bookstores for $6.95 and it is highly recommended for readers with a passion for passion.

Hopes high after 'successful' fairs

A trip to three Japanese educational fairs last October was "quite successful," said Dennis Malone, director of English and Articulation Division.

"The turnout at the fair in Tokyo was double the expectations. There were about 800 students at the fair," Mr. Malone said.

"Students had already decided which colleges they were going to come and talk to. There was very little shopping around by students," he said.

The Japanese students, who visited the Niagara College booth, spoke English most of the time but there was an interpreter on hand. The students requested information about Canada and the area around Niagara College, he said.

"The only places the Japanese know about in Canada are Niagara Falls and Charlottetown, P.E.I.(because of Anne of Green Gables).

"Almost all the students at the fair in Osaka, Japan were females between the ages of 20 and 25," said Mr. Malone. "Only one male student came to talk to me."

The fair, in Sapporo, Japan, sponsored by Mainichi Communications of Japan had the poorest attendance.

Mr. Malone said the fair was held in a first-class hotel, but was poorly promoted with fewer than 50 people attending.

"I had two girls talk to me about Niagara and their education for about 2½ hours," he said, adding Niagara College will be entered in the Mainichi Communications book. The book contains information on schools throughout the world.

It takes two or three years to establish trust with the Japanese, said Mr. Malone. It's good to build up as many personal contacts as possible to form a good relationship.

"The trip was worth the time. Hopefully, some of the students that visited the fairs will attend Niagara College next year and in the years to follow."

Three responses to the Japanese trip were received. This surprised Mr. Malone. "I was told not to expect any response for at least six months."

"It's a good sign," said Mr. Malone, of the three responses. "The proof will be in the number of students who are here next September."

Career fair at Mack

The Health Care Career Fair, held at Mack campus Dec. 7, "went very well," Mary Sirotnik, co-ordinator of Year III and curriculum, said.

Janet Forfar, career services officer, said 181 students attended the fair. There were 18 agencies represented, including two from the United States.

The agencies were pleased with the response from the students, Ms. Forfar said.

"They (the students) were stopping and asking pertinent questions," she said.

Mrs. Sirotnik said she heard positive comments from both students and agencies.

The agencies were impressed by the intelligent and enthusiastic questions the students asked, she said. The students thought the career fair was a good opportunity to see their career options all in one building.

This was the second career fair held at the Mack campus.

More lights needed, former director says

Former Niagara College director of property and plant services Ron Haughton talked last year about the need for more parking and the lighting of the parking lots before leaving his position at the school.

Plans for two temporary parking lots — as previously announced in the Niagara News — have been cancelled.

Due to school finances and the wet weather experienced last fall other alternatives are being sought.

Mr. Haughton would have liked to have added an additional 200 spaces to lot G, along Woodlawn Road, while paving lots F and H, adjacent to First Avenue. "That's what I asked for and the response I got back was there's no money this year," he said.

New lighting for parking lots was also a major concern of his.

"Lighting has been a problem around here the last 15 or 20 years," he said.

Planned preventative maintenance on the Simcoe building's roof was postponed so the school could afford the new lighting. Mr. Haughton said that the roof was not leaking and the repairs could be done at a later date.

Although a plant and property services survey shows a need for more parking spaces, there are usually spaces available somewhere on campus. While the findings showed some lots do fill at peak hours, others remain empty. Lot A, geographically the furthest from most of the school buildings, is seldom full while lots B and D are filled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. People who are parking illegally during these hours could park in the less congested lots.

Mr. Haughton said students should look for legal parking spaces in other areas when their favorite is filled. "Come in about five minutes early and check out the other lots," he said.

The new lighting of the parking lots will bring them up to the Canadian Standards Association levels. The lighting plan, which was instigated before Mr. Haughton arrived at the school early last year, was a four-phase project.

Fruit punch with added vitamin GST

Fruit juice drinkers beware!

The federal government is out for your tax dollars, but only if you like fruit punch. Of the six fruit juice flavors offered in the mini-cafeteria, only fruit punch is subject to the seven per cent goods and services tax. Apple, orange, lemonade, grape and grapefruit juice, all of the same brand, are exempt from the tax.

Advice for 1991 could be as follows: buy your doughnuts in boxes of six and stay away from fruit punch.

Pilot project new elective

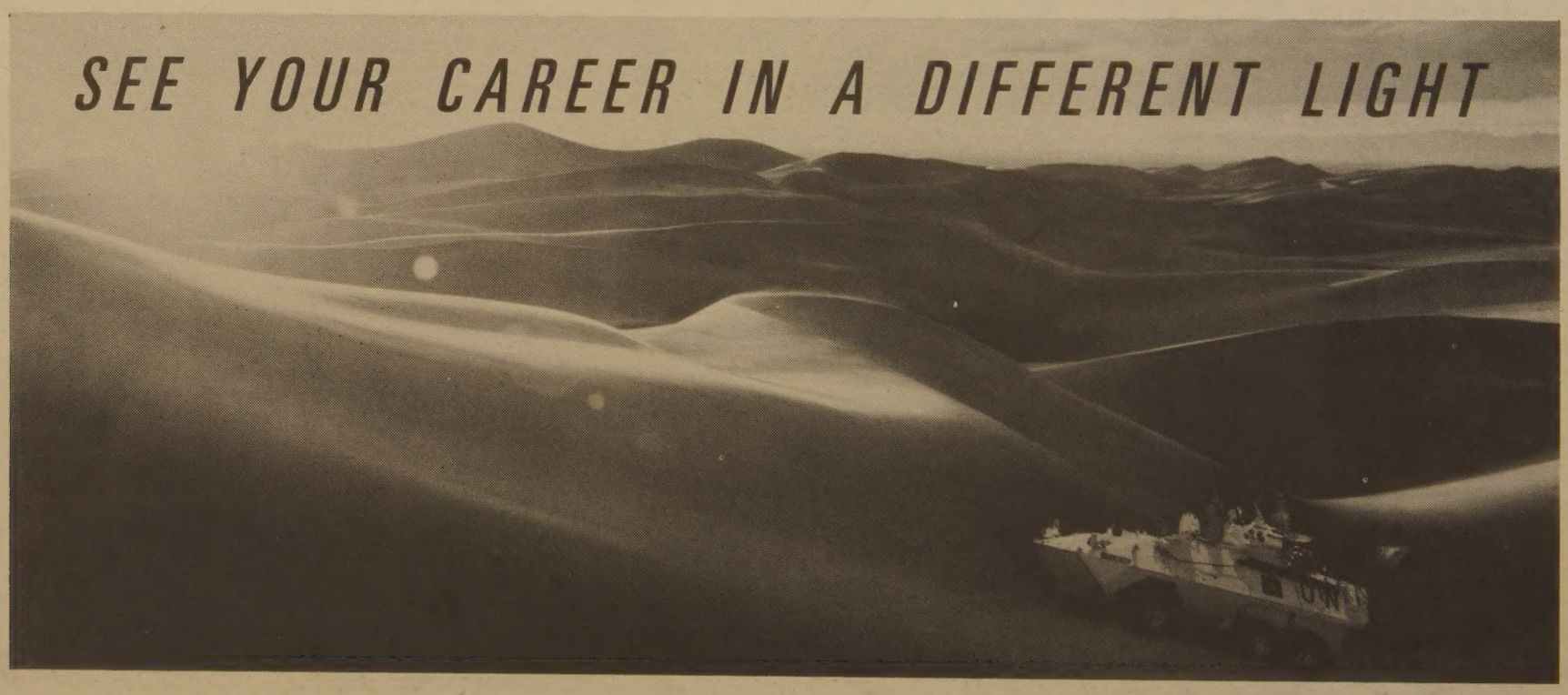
A pilot project's success has added a new permanent elective to the College's curriculum. Tutoring Language Skills was offered this fall.

This course "gives people background on literacy-related learning disabilities," Dr. Sandra Crux, English 106 instructor, said. "It also provides practical strategies to help people with learning disabilities compensate for their learning problems."

English 106, an elective course, provides students with an introduction to tutoring's educational principles to help to develop language skills, Dr. Crux said.

Special needs and literacy needs are important in the workplace now, she said. "It is going to be the edge for job placement."

"This course would be helpful to anybody in any career," Dr. Crux said. Examples of strategies taught are notetaking during lectures and reading comprehension.



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Toys for tots

Diana Brozovic, secretary for the Niagara College support staff union local 243, examines toys donated by the union's executive committee. The toys were donated to Community Christmas Toys, a Welland-based charity aimed at making Christmas happy for youngsters in need.

Photo by Robert A. Finlay

Former politician joins college staff

A former federal and provincial bureaucrat will become Niagara College's new vice-president of community ventures.

Dan Patterson, currently serving as director of the partnership and service development branch of the Ontario Ministry of Skills Development, was selected from more than 200 applications. He begins his new job Jan. 28.

"He has a background in the community college system and a real knowledge of business and industry," John Saso, college president, said.

Mr. Patterson's experience includes developing new programs with business and industry involving both the provincial and federal government levels.

In accepting his responsibilities at the college, one of Mr. Patterson's objectives is to develop a partnership with federal, provincial and municipal governments, unions, private business and other community organizations in support of economic development.

"Above all, the challenge is to ensure that Niagara College takes a quantum leap forward in its responsiveness to the community it serves," Mr. Patterson stated in a press release issued through Mr. Saso's office. "To serve the market well is to ensure success."

Mr. Patterson holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from the University of Windsor, a Master of Science degree from The London School of Economics and a Master of Education degree from the University of Toronto.

Dining room expands hours

The Hospitality and Tourism Centre's dining room in Niagara Falls has expanded its hours of operations.

Luncheons are served Tuesdays through Fridays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday luncheons began Jan. 8, while Wednesday to Friday sittings begin Feb. 13.

The dining room is licensed and offers a smoke-free environment for its patrons and a dress code is in effect. Reservations may be made by contacting Beverley Williams at 374-7454 ext. 602.

Travelling library of toys enjoyed by children, parents

By JENNIFER BARTKIW
Staff Writer

Christmas is over. The kids are tired of their toys. With the recession and goods and services tax many parents are having trouble keeping up with the whims of their children. Niagara Region's Family and Children's Services toy lending library provides parents an opportunity to save money and children a chance to enjoy a different toy every two weeks.

The government funded toy lending library is a community service offering families an opportunity to borrow toys for their preschool children.

"The cut-off age is six years old because they're (the children) not so much into toys but are starting to get into high-tech games like Nintendo," Jeanette Yacura, toy lending library co-ordinator for Niagara South, said.

The toy library runs out of schools, churches and community centres throughout Niagara. "We will set up the library where ever there is free space," Mrs. Yacura said. A brightly decorated truck, better known as the Toy Mobile, transports the toys to designated areas in the region. Towns and cities have been grouped according to their location: Niagara North, Niagara South and St. Catharines.

Niagara South's toy mobile travels to Port Colborne, Niagara Falls, Welland, Wainfleet, Allenburg, Stevensville, Crystal Beach and Fort Erie.

"Mothers can take out one toy and one educational item per child such as a game, a puzzle, a book, an audio tape or a puppet," Mrs. Yacura said. "Resource books on parenting, expectations for infants, songs and creative activities are available for the parents to take home." All toys and books are loaned for two week periods and toys returned late aren't fined.

JEANETTE YACURA

"We also lend toys to people who babysit for the Region — formal caregivers — and to those who babysit out of their home — informal caregivers," Mrs. Yacura said.

ON THE ROAD

The toy lending library started in 1987 in different locations across the Niagara Region. "After the program ran for six months there was a need for a second toy mobile because it (the program) was so popular," Mrs. Yacura said. Niagara South's toy mobile has been on the road for two years.

"People from all walks of life are using the toys, especially now it seems that the recession is on," Mrs. Yacura said. "In October alone we improved our parent numbers by 50 per cent. I don't know if it's because we've been running (the program) for the past two years — the usual period for the area to catch on — or the recession."

"One hundred and fifty families visit twice a month and all total there is a membership of 300 people. The going rate for a toy is $30. Parents bring the toy home not knowing if their child is going to like it. If the child does, he/she will play with it for two weeks and then it will be set aside and go in the collection of (unused) toys," Mrs. Yacura said.

"Parents realize they can save money by coming (to the library) and finding out what toy their child really enjoys and then they can purchase that item only," Mrs. Yacura said. Infants go through many development stages and parents can spend a lot of money trying to stay on top of the child's changes. "A child grows out of a puzzle or game every three months."

MEMBERSHIP

Membership at the toy library costs $1 per family per year; the size of the family doesn't affect the price. "There are musical toys, construction toys that build fine motor skills, infant toys, math and science toys, toys that encourage the child's imagination and toys that develop gross motor skills," Mrs. Yacura said. The library offers a variety of toys for special needs children as well.

Toys are purchased from local toy stores using a budget provided by Family and Children's Services. Parents sign a waver when they join the lobrary to ensure they will contribute half the cost of a toy if it is broken or damaged beyond repair. "We look at the toy and realize that it has been used continuously; but we can tell if a toy has been deliberately damaged," Mrs. Yacura said.

"Parents are very good about it (paying for damaged toy) and it gives the child an incentive to be responsible with his/her toy," Mrs. Yacura said. "We are constantly replacing pieces from toys and games and we only buy toys that are very durable — no cloth toys."

NURSE VISITS

A nurse visits the library every two weeks to speak with parents and answer questions. "We work together to meet the needs of the younger families," Mrs. Yacura said.

"People are thrilled with the variety of toys that we have. Families who first joined up in June 1987 are still coming and using the library for their other children," Mrs. Yacura said.

Advertising in local newspapers and word of mouth helps the toy library continue to grow. "In the beginning the toy library started because there was a need to reach out to pre-school children in rural areas; it gave the children a play time and the parents a social time," Mrs. Yacura said.

The toy library in Welland is located at the Central United Church, 12 Young St. On Jan. 29, 1991 a new location will be opening at Christ Church, 224 Division St., Welland.

New VP of academics to start next month

Niagara College has a new vice-president of academics.

David Schleich (pronounced Slike) will begin his job Feb. 25.

"He stood out in the final analysis," John Saso, college president, said. "He had outstanding academic qualities and human relations skills that are critical. He matched the criteria and had a high energy level. He had that extra spark."

Mr. Schleich is from St. Lawrence College in Kingston where he taught communication and English for the past eight years.

A combination of imagination, intelligent marketing and a love of teaching will help Niagara College grow, said Mr. Schleich in a press release issued from Mr. Saso's office.

"Everything we do and will do begins and ends with teaching and learning," he stated in the press release.

Mr. Schleich replaces Tony Knowles, who left the college to become president of Red River College in Winnipeg.

The former owner, editor and publisher of Quarry Press Inc., one of Canada's most successful literary presses, holds degrees from the University of Alberta, the University of Western Ontario and Queen's University.

Correction

In the Niagara News, Vol. 21 No. 6 edition, published Dec. 7, 1990, we incorrectly spelled the name of Elvira Lucas, Educational Resources and Special Needs program co-ordinator. We apologize for any inconvenience or embarrassment this may have caused.

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Editorials

Rae faces money woes

'Equitable' new year

Last September, Ontario voters demonstrated their readiness to vote on the basis of issues, and adamantly asserted their right to hold provincial politicians accountable when they turfed out the Liberals in favor of an NDP majority government.

Since then, various segments of society, such as feminist and anti-poverty organizations, have criticized Premier Bob Rae and his new administration for failing to adequately address their concerns.

However, when one considers the problems of running a government with a $2.5 billion deficit and a recession, the NDP government has been largely successful in attempting to fulfil many of its long standing commitments.

Among the specific proposals outlined in its throne speech from the first socialist government in Ontario were the following: an environmental bill of rights; public auto insurance; a moratorium on further development of nuclear energy; a $700 million public works program to improve sewers and roads; an employee protection fund to provide compensation to workers who lose their jobs and severance pay because of business bankruptcies; and a pledge to raise the $5.40 minimum hourly wage to more than $7.

Although the NDP government failed to mention its campaign pledge to build 20,000 units of affordable housing in each year of its mandate, it did agree to withhold the Liberal promise of $55 million in cash towards the construction of a ballet-opera house in downtown Toronto, arguing that the money was better spent in helping the homeless and the hungry.

Of course, this has not endeared the NDP to the artistic community, but in times of fiscal restraint, the government's decision is a fair one.

The NDP government won't have to face the legislature again until late March. This gives rookie ministers time to adjust to their new posts. But by that time, it is not unreasonable to expect some action on other campaign promises — such as a pledge to reform the provincial patronage system.

Despite rumors from housing ministry experts that the creation of 20,000 units of new social housing a year would deplete the treasury by almost $1 billion annually after four years, NDP supporters have a right to expect to see the availability of at least half that number by the end of 1991, as well as tough, new rent- control legislation.

No government has fulfilled all of its campaign promises, but judging by the NDP record so far, the Ontario electorate can expect a more equitable new year for all segments of society in 1991.

Catherine Denison

Canada 'Brianwashed'

With Christmas behind us and our New Year's resolutions made, we can look forward to 1991 with anticipation.

Our government set forth their New Year's resolution in establishing the goods and services tax. They resolved to tax the Canadian people so much in 1991 that many people want to leave the country. We have been brainwashed into believing we live in a democratic society. We have been brainwashed into believing the people we elect into office will give us what they promised during their election campaigns. We have been brainwashed into believing the people we elect will run the government in our best interests. The brainwashing techniques of our government are no longer hidden and the Canadian people are beginning to realize we do not live in a democratic country, but rather under a dictatorship.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has proven he will rule according to his will and not according to what is best for the people. He wanted free trade; the majority of people don't like it. He believes free trade will help the Canadian economy. We got free trade, but sadly, many Canadians are out of work. He wanted the GST. However, the majority of people are opposed to the GST, feeling already overtaxed.

We understand the need of the federal government to raise money — just look at the federal debt — but the GST is not the answer.

So, with all the New Year's resolutions made, enjoy 1991 with great anticipation. If you get a job when you graduate from your course, hang on to it! If you have any money left after the government takes their share of your pay, enjoy it! Good luck in the year ahead.

Diane Foster

Letters

Praises cleaning staff

Dear Editor:

I noticed a Letter to the Editor in your Dec. 7, 1990 edition of Niagara News criticizing the cleaning staff for the condition of Portable 2 — the Language Lab.

Our English as a Second Language Program is in P2 for 15 hours each week, and we, too, were unhappy with the room's condition. In October, I called Linda Maidens, building operations supervisor, to tell her of the condition of the room. That very night it was cleaned. The waste paper baskets were emptied, the boards were washed, the ledges dusted, the floor swept. I was very impressed with the promptness with which my request was handled. If that letter had been written in September or early October, I would have been in complete agreement with the author; however, the situation was cleared up promptly and effectively. The building operations staff deserves praise and appreciation, not criticism.

Yours truly,
Gaylene Levesque
Professor ESL

La thanks to La students

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Welland Branch of The Canadian Red Cross Society, I would like to express appreciation to three stalwart young men from the Law and Security Administration program for giving so freely of their time to move La beds from La back room to La basement in our office on King Street in Welland. The three involved were Jim Gage, Sean Nichols and Kevin Blanchard.

This generous donation of time is especially appreciated since I know that with Christmas tests upon us, this was a student's busiest time of the year.

Thanks guys.

Sincerely,
Eugene L. Maltais
President, Welland Branch,
Canadian Red Cross Society

Bullpit

Recycling questions

By DIANE FOSTER
Staff Writer

Recycle, we are told. Separate papers, cans, plastics, and glass; put them in the blue box; put the blue box at the curb for the recycling truck to pick up.

I am all for recycling, but I am not clear what specifically should be recycled. I take the time to separate all plastics and papers, put them in the blue box, and all but the glass, newspapers and plastic pop bottles are left there. I then have these items around the house for another week until I can put it out for the garbage truck. Why do I bother to take the time to separate these recyclable items if they end up in the landfill site?

In Niagara Falls, only one blue box per household will be picked up. If your household generates more than one boxful of recyclable materials, they will not be picked up. What does one do with the extra recyclable materials generated each week? Does this end up in a green garbage bag to be taken to the landfill site? If so, then what is the point of the recycling program and the fines imposed for not participating? Will the householder who has more than one boxful of recyclable materials be fined for putting out the additional papers, plastics, cans and glass for garbage pick up?

I don't understand why businesses and schools are not included in the recycling program. Residents are threatened with fines if they don't participate in the blue box recycling system while businesses, which generate more recyclable materials in one day than the average household generates in one week, are not provided with blue boxes and are not allowed (without special permission) to participate.

More should be done to recycle a wider variety of products. Some papers and plastics are not recyclable. Why is this? I don't understand why, if the technology is available, more isn't being done to expand the usefulness of recycling.

The recycling program, in place in most Canadian cities, is good. It is a program that helps eliminate trash from landfill sites. It is a program that contributes to making the world a safer place in which to live. All I say is please make it clear to the Canadian people how we can make the recycling program more efficient.

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FOCUS

Respite spells family relief

By DIANE FOSTER
Staff Writer

Niagara Respite Services provides relief for families with special needs people as long as they live at home and require 24-hour care, Dorothy Banman, co-ordinator, said.

"We want to encourage special needs individuals to remain at home and be involved in the community."

Mrs. Banman, a graduate of Niagara College's Educational Resources and Special Needs program, began as co-ordinator of Respite Services working two years at Niagara College as an education assistant in the Educational Resources and Special Needs program.

Niagara Respite Services began in 1979 as Parental Relief to assist families with a special needs family member who requires 24-hour care to find someone in the community to provide relief for the care-giver.

"Niagara Respite Services is undergoing some changes trying to put a number of special needs services together to have only one worker per home," Mrs. Banman said.

Anywhere from one to six people could visit the same home to provide the services required.

Sitters and host families are all volunteers and range in age from 16 to grandparents with many volunteering to help special needs

DOROTHY BANMAN

families. Host familes are used to relieve the care-giver for a longer time period than just an hour or two. A host family takes the individual into their home overnight for up to 21 days, Mrs. Banman said.

Special needs families are allowed up to 21 days of relief per year. Eighty per cent of this service is paid by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services. The families pay the additional 20 per cent, which is a minimal cost. Sitters receive $4.50 per hour.

"My job is assisting families with special needs members to obtain Respite, which is provided by sitter and host families, by introducing them to each other," Mrs. Banman said. "We try to match the volunteer to the requests of the family."

Mrs. Banman, a teacher by profession, also acts as public relations representative talking with high schools, students, church groups, and Lions Clubs.

She is in charge of recruitment and the organization of training programs for the volunteers. Training includes special needs behavior management, fire safety and a short first aid course.

Volunteers come for various reasons, some to gain experience in a field in which they are interested in developing as a career, she said. Grandparents and retired couples become connected with one or more families depending on how much they want to become involved, she said.

To qualify as a volunteer sitter or host family an interview is necessary as are three references, a police check, a medical, and a fire inspector must inspect the homes of host families. A confidentiality form must be signed by the volunteer.

Families requiring Respite Services should have a doctor's referral from another agency, such as, Community and Social Services, or can make a self-referral if the need is felt. The families must call Respite Services themselves. Respite is available to families throughout the Niagara Region by calling 684-3303 or 835-2921.

Volunteers are needed as a sitter or a host family. "Volunteers must remember they (special needs people) are people first. We all have disabilities of some description — some not as obvious," Mrs. Banman said.

Course emphasis on human contact

The Educational Resources and Special Needs program is doing many things to help people not only on campus, but in the community.

The emphasis of the program is on real human contact, being involved with hands on, monitored, individualized instruction, Elvira Lucas, program co-ordinator, said.

Community service is a requirement of the program and, as a result, students have done many hours of volunteer work in the community over the years. Last year, more than 2,000 hours of volunteer service was provided to various institutions in the peninsula.

"This volunteer work helps students build a resume, provide a networking system, and gain experience that cannot be gained in a classroom," Mrs. Lucas said.

Some students are involved in canvassing for foundations such as the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Cancer Society, the Big Sisters, Cubs, Brownies, Girl Guides or Sunday school.

The program's students hold many major fundraising events each year. They raised more than $1,200 for Ronald McDonald House in Toronto by selling buttons and holding raffles, more than $2,000 toward providing a heart monitor for a baby in Fort Erie, and last year, more than $900 for Welland Community Living.

"The program received an award of merit from the Big Brothers 'Bowling for Millions' for being the most consistent group to contribute the largest amount of money each year for the past five years," Mrs. Lucas said.

Some students are conversation partners with English as a Second Language students. Students spend time with their partners each week helping him or her become involved in Canadian culture, language and customs. They invite the English as a Second Language students to their homes, to go out shopping, and to other off campus activities to familiarize them with Canadian traditions.

Each year the program has a craft night for Big and Little Sisters. Crafts are taught by the students and each of the 80 Big and Little Sisters go home with at least four crafts.

"A large number of the students volunteer at Respite Services. Respite provides a relief service to parents with a severely challenged child or adult in their home," Mrs. Lucas said. "It could be an emotional, physical, mental, or behavior problem that requires 24-hour attendance. This means the person cannot be left alone." The volunteer goes into the home and relieves the caretaker.

Students help integrate special needs and head injured students into campus life through a befriending program. This is to create a friend on campus outside the classroom, Mrs. Lucas said.

Students are on work placement all four semesters, in four different areas. They are required to do a number of assignments with the public. The program is practical with "real human contact in the process of learning," Mrs. Lucas said.

Asset disposal program ongoing

Imagine passing by a window in the school and seeing college personnel throwing out computer monitors and keyboards. Imagine seeing a dumpster filled with these computers.

An observant person could have seen this exact situation over the last few weeks on the Welland campus. It's all part of a current asset disposal by college administration.

"What we're throwing out is items that we don't think have any use to anyone," Gary LaRose, director of financial services, said. "They're either beyond repair or of technology that is outmoded."

"We had our computer people look at this equipment," he said. The computers were so old they were obsolete. "Even the cable (that runs to and from the different terminals) was not compatible with any we have now. They couldn't see how we could make use of it."

Older items are offered for sale in the college's garage sale. Other items of questionable value are donated to charity if they can make use of them. Suggestions the college offer these items to staff and students have caused problems.

"The question then becomes 'who do you give that to?', Mr. La Rose said. "We did have an experience before where a student was given by a staff member — which was not college policy — used equipment that was going to be scrapped. We were then contacted by the police because they found it in a ditch. They thought it had been stolen.

"What we're trying to do is act responsible, " he said." But, we're also under pressure from the (Ministry of) Health and Safety to clean up the storage areas. If we scrap it, we want to scrap it properly so it's not lying out there."

Weather updates available on local radio stations

Buried under a ton of snow and want to know if you should go to school?

In adverse weather conditions, which may result in the college being closed, students are requested to listen to local radio stations, or call the college switchboard for a complete update of campus closings, said Hans van der Slagt, acting vice-president academics.

Students outside the Welland area are asked to call the college only if no announcement is heard and the weather or road conditions in their area are too severe.

If no announcements are broadcast, the college will remain open. Students not attending classes due to the weather must, however, notify their co-ordinator, Mr. van der Slagt said.

External announcements on CKTB, CHSC, CHOW, and CJRN will be made every half-hour during regular newscasts.

Many local radio stations have emergency hotlines with the separate school boards and Brock University. When the decision to close is made Brock will fax the decision to the station for broadcasting Pete Morena, of CHOW news, said. "Niagara has no real definite system, but they do eventually call," he said.

The decision to cancel evening classes if weather conditions persist should be made by 4 p.m. by College President John Saso.

Women skirt RN backlog

More females are enrolling in the hospital orderly program offered at Mount Carmel campus in Niagara Falls.

"Our female grads are being sought after," Donna Cunningham, director of nursing, said.

The co-ordinator of the program, Doris Evans, said women are entering the orderly program due to the long waiting list for the registered nursing program. They take the RN course on a part-time basis after their orderly course.

Last year's class had four women out of a total of 18 students. This year's class of 21 has six female students.

Ms. Evans said the decision by some women to become orderlies may involve equality. The traditional image of the hospital orderly is a " tough, hefty" man called to assist nursing staff with heavy work.

"I think the ladies want to prove that they have the same rights," Ms. Evans said.

The hospital orderly program allows the graduate to work in the hospitals and make good money. Of the four women who graduated last year, one is taking her RN course and the other three are working in hospitals.

"They're well accepted," Ms. Evans said.

College seeks plant director

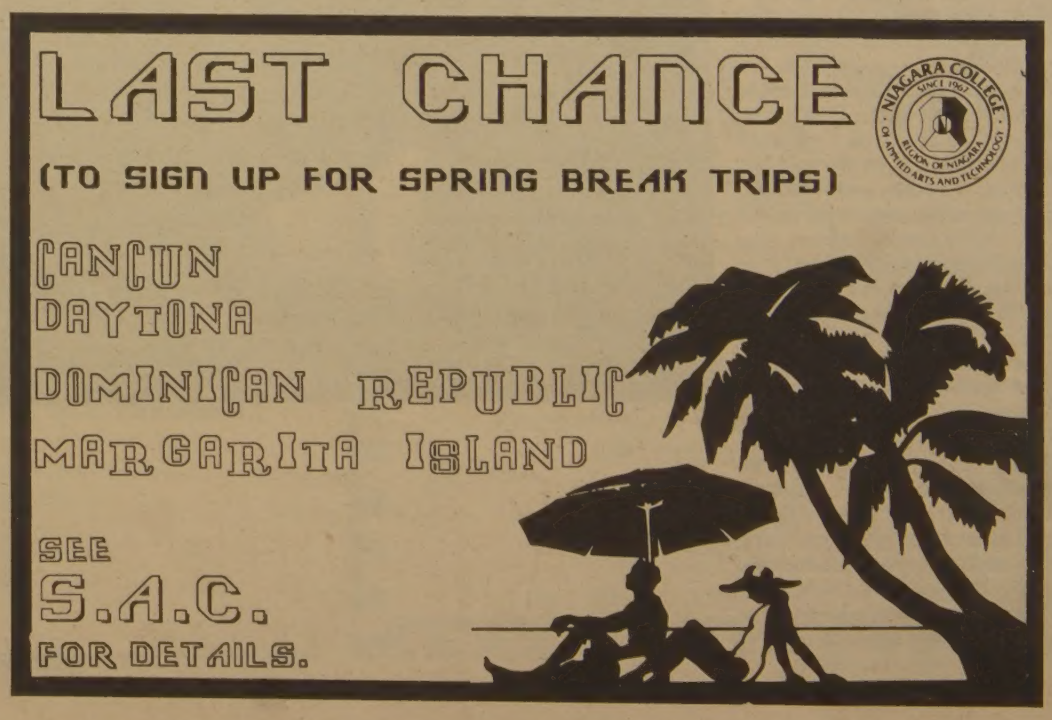
With the departure of Ron Haughton before the Christmas break, college officials are busy recruiting potential directors for the plant and property services department.

"We hope to fill the position as soon as possible," Gary LaRose director of financial services said. "There's lots of issues we want to take care of."

The position has been posted internally as well in local papers and The Globe and Mail.

Glenn Pevere, director of human services, is hopeful the search will take no longer than four to six weeks.

Until a new director is found, Mal Woodhouse, the college's health and safety manager, will oversee the department. "I'm here to help out during the interim," he said.



Air Rescue experience enlightens student

By RICHARD DOUGLAS
Staff Writer

I was 700 feet in the air. The wind was causing turbulence. The small one engined Cessna was rocking up and down. Below, the ground was a blanket of colors. Ranging from a soggy brown to a deep, rich green, the various lots and parcels of land became a giant patchwork quilt of seemingly indecipherable shapes and details.

A helicopter had gone down. It's last reported position was somewhere three miles south of Niagara Falls. As part of the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association's latest exercise, I was one of two spotters whose job it was to look for the alleged crash site and any survivors.

"The main purpose of the spotter is to find the object of search," Earl Lafferty, a spotter for the past four years, said.

We circled high over Niagara College. As the pilot settled over our designated search area with the help of the navigator, my fellow spotter and I attempted to follow the scanning procedure described to us at the morning's meeting. It's a method of restricted viewing which has the spotter concentrate on a particular area for a short period while sweeping his line of vision from left to right.

Everyone at the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association, based at the Niagara Regional Airport in St.Catharines, starts as spotter. "We like everyone to be cross-trained," Ron Rap, the unit's zone commander, said. If a pilot's plane is inoperable he can then fill in as a spotter. "The spotter is the most important part."

The spotter training starts in September and runs till the beginning of summer. "June is our busiest time," Mr.Rap said. "There's a lot of marine activity going on." There is a greater need for spotters then because of the increase in aviation and marine activities.

A spotter's training consists of basic first aid and the familiarization with the various aircrafts used during exercises. "It's to protect themselves," Mr.Rap said. As it is always a risk whenever a plane leaves the ground, spotters are also taught basic survival skills which include an outdoor overnight survival training course in February. As a spotter becomes more proficient, military qualification is sought. Military aircrafts are used to test the new spotters. As the local unit, formed in 1975, is level "A" rated by the military, members are not supervised during searches. They operate with "unrestricted capabilities" Mr.Rap said and can be called upon to assist in searches run by the military.

We began our first pass over the assumed crash area. The plane continued to shake as I scanned the terrain. My eyes worked left to right. Below were farms, highways, rural roads and marsh lands. Information about the downed helicopter described it as silver colored. Should I be looking for reflective surfaces? The sun shone off the many shallow tree-covered ponds and marshes in the area. A needle in a haystack seemed easier.

The film we were shown this morning — there were quite a few first-timers like me — said we should look for fires, flares, parachutes, wreckage or anything that stands out from the natural terrain. It also said there have been many instances where rescue craft have flown close to or over a crash site and not seen it.

The pilot banked the plane, readying for the next pass. The navigator told the right-side spotter and me to rest our eyes. Spotters can work a limited time before fatigue overcomes them. The concentration demands a spotter be in good shape and healthy. If you're suffering from a cold, are prone to motion sickness or are color blind, stay on the ground.

The local unit boasts a membership of 72. They are all volunteers who started as spotters. As the government subsidizes only a small percentage of expenses, other means of finance must be found.

"We are self funding," Mr.Rap said. The money is raised by bingos and donations from corporate sponsors like Thompson Products. "It represents a big savings to the Canadian taxpayer," he said. A large military transport can cost over $40,000 for a day's search whereas this unit's smaller plane cost as little as $75 an hour run.

Our second pass proved fruitless. As we prepared for the third I rested my eyes. The sun was gone now, replaced by overhanging clouds. Our graceful banking turn over the Upper Niagara River ended and I began to scan the area below once more — trees, farms, dirt roads and bogs. It didn't take much for all this to become a surrealistic blur; this was where the concentration on what I was doing became so important. It was only an exercise, but I still couldn't help but think a life really was on the line. My eyes could be all that separate the crash victim from an unenviable fate. I scanned from left to right.

As each search can use as many as 16-20 people, the higher the unit's membership the better. "It's not always easy to get people from work," Mr.Rap said. Employers are generally sympathetic, but there are times when people cannot be reached. The membership created a greater pool from which to draw. A member is always on call. The phone may ring at any time. There have been 22 calls out this year.

It was getting hot in the cramped cockpit. Turbulence was starting to set my stomach on edge. The third flyover of the assigned area continued when suddenly we heard a voice on the radio. It was a unit member who had set up the faked crash site. We had flown over twice and not seen it.

The pilot was instructed to circle around and show us. There it was: a brilliant flare burning, an orange sheet spread on the ground and the helicopter. I had failed. Nobody treated that as much of a surprise; the first time up was only to serve as an introduction of what to look for.

Still, I could not shake the feeling that my shortcomings as a spotter would have cost a life. We flew back to the airport.

If this had been a real emergency, the unit would have been contacted by the military rescue coordination centre in Trenton, Ontario. It oversees the entire province and would be alerted once a plane or boat was reported as overdue or missing. The local unit would then be informed of the missing vehicle's description, the number of passengers, last known position and its registration number. In 45 minutes charts would be drawn and crews assembled. Then they would take to the air.

As the Cessna approached the airport and I awaited a debriefing where my fellow spotter and I would describe what we had seen while in the air, I felt disappointed in myself. I had failed to spot the downed helicopter. But, as the plane began its descent, I realized there are highly-trained people experienced at this. It made me feel better knowing they are out there and on call.

Anyone interested in the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association and wanting to know more can contact Ron Rap at 354-5345.

The Cessna touched down. The exercise was over.

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Sports

Impressive play nets win

By NEVILLE LEWIS
Staff Writer

Niagara College can finally boast of winning in a sport other than hockey.

Last weekend, the Knights played impressively to win the Loyalist College Invitational Basketball Tournament title in Belleville.

The Niagara men played Friday beating the Nicholson Catholic College Crusaders 91-84 in an exhibition game.

On Saturday, the Knights played two of the Ontario Colleges Athletics Association Division Two teams winning both games.

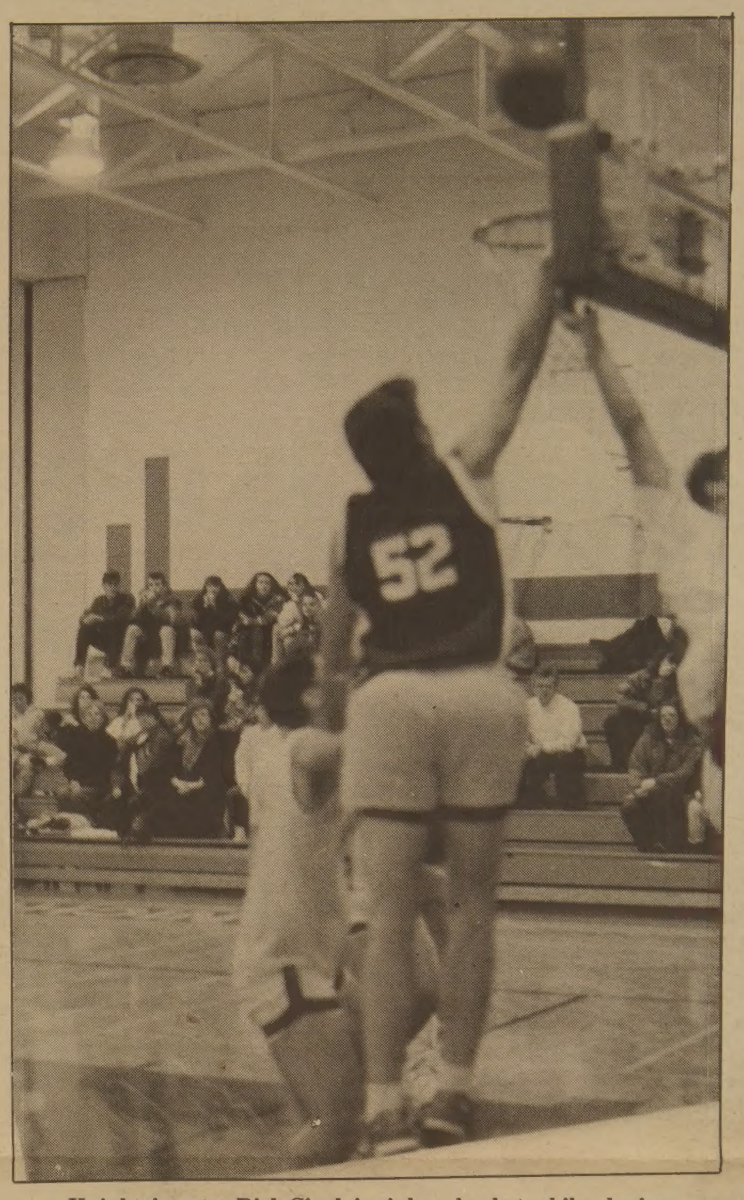
After a 74-41 victory over Sir Sanford Fleming of Lindsay, the Knights defeated Lambton Lions 72-57 to win the Loyalist Invitational Championship.

Earlier in the day, the Lions defeated the Loyalist Lancers 63-62.

Although the Knights won the title, injuries and foul trouble could have changed the outcome of the final game. Guard and outstanding defenceman Pat Inneo left the game with a sprained left ankle in the first half. With 5:10 left in the second half, point guard and leading scorer Scott Currie was taken out with a cramp injury. Centre Rick Sinclair soon followed with a left leg cramp. Meanwhile, forward Merv Wrighton had received four quick fouls in the second half. Despite injuries and foul trouble, Scott, Rick and Merv stayed in to help Niagara to victory.

"The effort was excellent," coach Todd Stevens said. "We started with a simple base of skills and have improved over the three months that they have come out."

Though the talent was not necessarily always there, the effort was ever present the coach said. Scott was on a three-pointer roll. He had 14 for the weekend. Scott and Rick had 29 points each against the Crusaders. Scott netted 19 and Rick 18 against Fleming.



Knights' centre Rick Sinclair sinks a basket while playing at the Loyalist Invitational Tournament.

Photo by Neville Lewis

Coach Stevens is satisfied with his team's overall performance. "We are playing competitively with the level of competition that we have. That's what we want." He hopes to play Division One competition next year. His plans include recruiting a power-forward type of player which would allow him more versatility in the positioning of players.

Until then, "We will schedule teams that are commensurate to our team level," he said.

Wish Tree successful

Christmas cheer was spread among 25 seniors and children in the Niagara Region through response to the Wish Tree.

"I was really pleased with the turnout," said Linda Maidens, building operations supervisor, who co-ordinated the event.

Doilies had been placed on the Wish Tree in the Welland Campus Library bearing the name and age of the recipient. Of the 25 doilies, only one disappeared.

Ms. Maidens was disappointed no departments joined to buy gifts for a child or two. She expressed hope this would occur next year and extended her thanks to those who participated this year.

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Members elect exec, offer new incentives

Niagara's student branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers elected a new executive Dec. 6 and will be offering incentives to its members.

Executive members who will start duties in the fall are Herb Hill, chairperson; Bob Holder, vice-chairperson; Joe Stafford, treasurer, and Marilynne Box, secretary.

Power supply kits and high density discs are available to members in Lundy 12 — the McNaughton Centre — on Monday from 2:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesday 12:30-4:30 p.m., Thursday 2:30-4:30 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. All equipment is sold for special prices to members only.

Members are invited to attend a student professional awareness conference Jan. 16 at McMaster University. The conference is open to all members. Free transportation and dinner for those who wish to attend will be provided. The conference will run from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

More information on activities and equipment can be obtained from the McNaughton Centre.

Ice carvers visit Niagara

With entries from as far away as Hawaii and Texas, this year's International Ice Carving Competition promises to be an exciting one.

"There's still lots of work to be done," Chef David Gibson, chairperson of the Niagara Falls Ice Carving Committee, said.

Medals and trophies are being made and the ice has to be imported from the United States. Chef Gibson represents Niagara College and the Professional Chefs Association of Niagara on the committee established to oversee the contest. Other organizations involved include the Niagara Parks Commission, the Niagara Falls Visitor and Convention Bureau and several local businesses.

committee established to oversee the contest. Other organizations involved include the Niagara Parks Commission, the Niagara Falls Visitor and Convention Bureau and several local businesses.

In its third year, the contest will be held at Maple Leaf Village and Oakes Garden, in front of the village, Jan. 26 to 27 and is open to professionals and novices. The grand prize of $1,000 (U.S. funds) will be awarded the best professional entry. Prizes for the novice entries have not yet been decided but will probably be ice carving instruments, Chef Gibson said.

Christmas sales flourish

The Horticulture Centre in St. Catharines sold more Christmas plants this past December than previous years — about 400 mumsettias and 1,000 poinsettias found homes for the seasonal celebration.

"Thank you to everyone in the college...for their support...," said Jim Thomson, technician in charge of greenhouses and grounds.

Aside from the support received from students and staff at all campuses of Niagara College, Mr. Thomson attributes the success to the good quality plants grown by the horticulture students and to walk-in trade coming into the greenhouses off Niagara Street.

The main purpose in growing the poinsettias is for the students to learn important skills. Revenue generated from sales is an added benefit and is used to off-set the cost of the program, he said.

Students and staff at the Horticulture Centre are preparing for their open house in mid March. Students have started growing crops of mums, Martha Washington geraniums, Cinerarias, Kalanchoes, fresias, and odds and ends of little flowers and green plants.

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Racism 'not purely a Toronto problem,' Taylor says

A conference on race relations at the Casa Del Toro Inn, Welland, was told minority police recruits are needed and the government will improve aboriginal life.

On the conference's second day, the mostly Caucasian audience consisted of 50 people representing various agencies across Niagara.

Denise Taylor, police board chairman, told the conference that racism "is not purely a Toronto problem."

Mrs. Taylor said Niagara does not have a "serious problem or complaints of concerns by police treatment. But we recognize we must change the makeup of the force."

The biggest challenge is finding recruits.

"We receive few applications from women and visible minorities. There is a strong resistence to policing as a career."

Peter Kormos, Ontario's minister of financial institutions and consumer and commercial relations, told the conference discrimination hinders social and economic progress.

"Effective employment equity programs will be crucial if Ontario is to maintain and improve its competitive position in the global economy. Employment equity also makes good business sense," Mr. Kormos said.

Mr. Kormos said the government will not ignore the needs of native people. "We are determined to make major strides in negotiating aboriginal self-government and in improving the quality of life of Ontario's aboriginal people."

Wayne Hill, executive director, Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre, said the two-day conference was a good learning session. "It is good to understand the ethnic viewpoint."

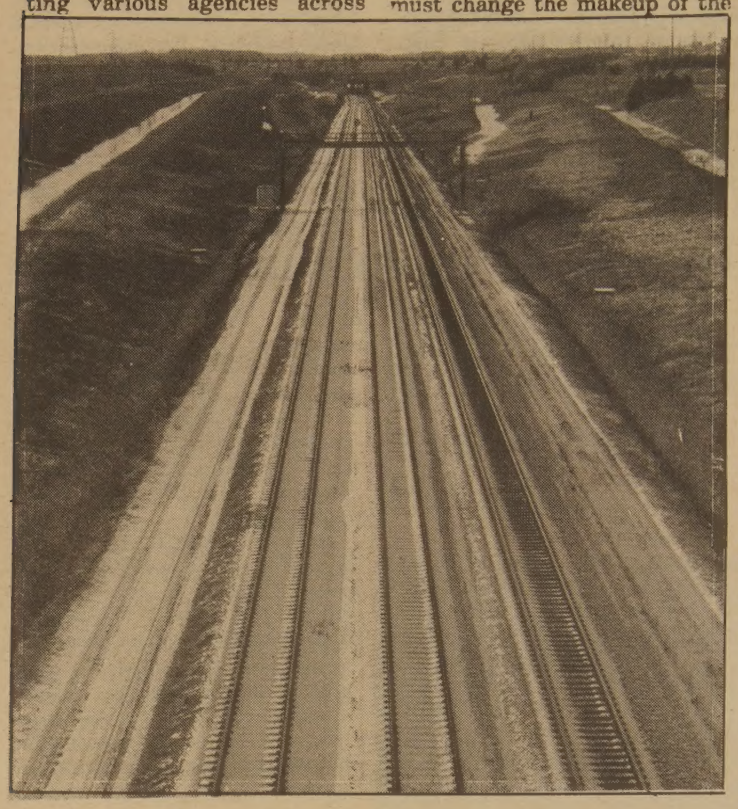
Mr. Hill said natives are not multicultural; they are a distinct society.

"If we went to another country, we would not be considered ethnic," Mr. Hill said. "The problems are similar, but not the same."

Harry Hill, a Fort Erie native, closed the conference with a sacred prayer and the lighting of a braided piece of sweet grass. The three strands of grass represent the mind, the spirit and the body.

In summarizing his thoughts on the promises in Mr. Kormos' speech, Mr. Hill quoted an ancestral phrase,"Big Thunder–now let's see if the rains come."

Mr. Kormos replied, "Get your slickers ready my friend."



On track

Railway tracks, located south of Welland, appear to disappear into the distance. Photo by Robert A. Finlay

$200,000 for co-op

Niagara College will receive a $200,000 grant from the federal government to initiate the co-op education component of the computer, electrical, and electronics engineering technology programs, said Rosemary Cawthorn, manager of Co-operative Education and Career Services.

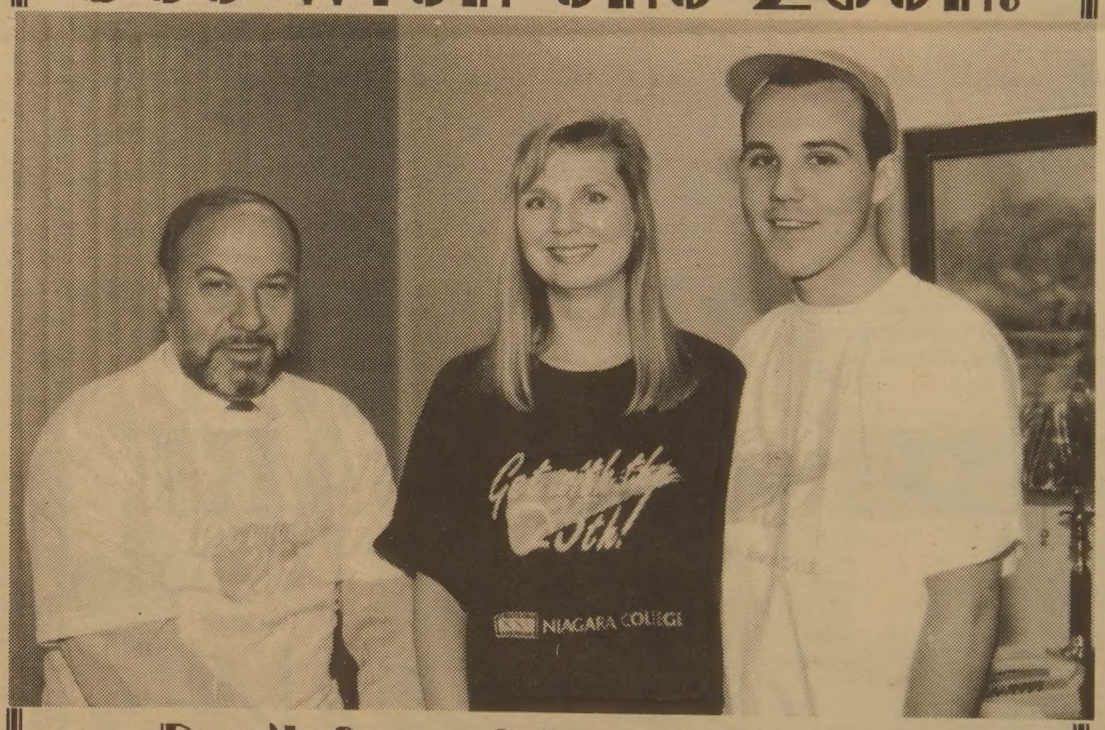
Beginning this January, the grant money will be received over a four-year period, she said.

Niagara College applied for the money a year ago but the necessary legislation was held up in parliament, Mrs. Cawthorne said.

Additional costs from co-op programs such as job development, marketing, job monitoring, and counselling are not covered by regular federal funding, she said.

The cost is off-set in part by the co-op fee charged to students. The remainder is absorbed by the college assisted by government grants.

Get with the 25th!



Don't forget to wear your 25th anniversary t-shirt on the 25th of every month!

A roving t-shirt spotter will be searching each campus for Niagara College 25th Anniversary t-shirts this January 25th! If you are the first person to be spotted wearing one of these t-shirts you will win one of the chosen prizes, such as pizza, subs, etc.

T-shirts are available for $10.50 in medium, large and x-large sizes at the Welland Campus bookstore only!

Be the first to be seen on Friday, January 25 wearing your 25th anniversary t-shirt!

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